Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* May I know whether the Government are aware of the number of trains running between Quilon and Trivandrum run by the South Indian Railway.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* I know there are four trains. That is my information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the Government and the Chief Engineer are aware of the difficulties of transport landing at Ernakulam at the ferry jetty.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes. There is some trouble on account of the low water near the ferry jetty. Now at present the Huzur Office Jetty is serviceable during low tides and the ferry jetty is used during high tides.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know if we have not got a dredger of our own.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it not possible to get a dredger and dredge the place so that there may not be any trouble.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No dredger is available and the location of the ferry jetty is rather unfortunate. For about 600 ft. there is low water and dredging is not a very simple matter and even if it is dredged experts think that it may be silted up very quickly so that nothing could be done there unless it is to extend the jetty another 600 ft. which is rather a very very hard job now.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will the Government copy the example of Travancore in regard to bus transport.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* You mean nationalization of bus transport. That question has not been considered.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will the Government kindly consider that scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it not possible to make a tank near the landing jetty so that boats may go into the tank as is done for the Alleppey boats at their landing place.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I shall look into it.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE—GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

29. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government has any idea to revise and enhance the dearness allowance of their servants;

(*b*) whether they have any idea to enhance the dearness allowance of aided teachers;

(*c*) if so, when and what amount?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* (*a*) to (*c*) The question of dearness allowance is generally before the Government and they will do whatever is possible from time to time.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether there is any other scheme now pending with the Government to revise the existing dearness allowance of the Government servants.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There is no scheme as such pending with the Government but the Government are aware that the question of dearness allowance has to be tackled more seriously and more sympathetically and they are considering about it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether a scheme is not now pending with the Government that was placed before them about a month back, that is just before Diwan Mr. Dixon left the Diwanship.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There is no such question pending with the Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Has the question been taken up about that time.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I said the question has been taken up from time to time.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I don't want that vague answer. My pointed question was whether the question by about the time which I mentioned has not been taken up at that time.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Hon'ble Member has already been answered. He cannot compel the Members of the Government to give an answer that he wants.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: As far as possible, Sir, our endeavour is to elicit information from the Government.

Mr. President: Order, order. I say the Hon'ble Member's question has been answered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know what was the last proposal of the Government.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: The last scheme was to raise it to Rs. 6. That is towards the end of July.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: After the disposal of that scheme which has brought the Government servants to enjoy Rs. 6 allowance, are we to take it that nothing has been done by the Government with that file.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: The file has gone from place to place during this time and we are collecting materials. It is not a very simple question. It is a question which affects about 12 thousand employees and involves about 20 lakhs of Rupees and therefore this question has to be considered very carefully and you have got to allow sufficient time to the Head of the Administration to look into the question. Very anxiously and very seriously the various proposals before the Government are being considered. These have all got to be considered very carefully and tackled. I can assure the Hon'ble House that the Government are also very serious and sympathetic in this matter.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know Sir, whether the very favourable and sympathetic answer given in connection with the identical question during the budget session when the dearness allowance demand was under vote by the Diwan President has been noted by the Government. That was on the first day of the budget session *viz.*, 26th July 1943.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: The Diwan said that it would be sypathetically considered. It was only a week before that we raised the allowance to Rs. 6 and now we are only a few months after that. In a vital matter like this sometime is needed for the head of the Administration and I may add that this matter is being seriously considered by all concerned.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Is the Government aware that between the date given *i. e.*, 26th July 1943 and to-day the situation as far as food grains and the cost of other absolute necessaries of human life have not accentuated to a very miserably degree.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: Sir, so far as that is concerned we looked into the living index figures also. As we are not having this figure ourselves we were being guided by the figure of Calicut being the nearest place as far as we are concerned. We find that the index figure as from July is going down. I am not quoting that as a justification to put off the question. On the contrary the Government still think that their poor servants are hard hit.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether the Government are aware of the disparity of conditions as far as foodstuffs are concerned between Calicut and here.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: There may be some disparity. I am not questioning that statement of the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member would confine himself to the direct answer to a direct question. He should say yes or no.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, are the Government aware that the price of one bag of rice at Calicut is somewhere in the vicinity of Rs. 20 while in our State it is much higher than that.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: Yes. We are aware of that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the light of that awareness may I ask whether the question of enhancement of the dearness allowance of these poor paid Government servants will be considered by the Government.

Mr. P. V Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: Very seriously.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I have not finished my question. Will that consideration be accentuated with fruits as early as possible.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: We will very seriously consider all these aspects.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether the price of fuel here is the same asin Calicut.

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Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I have no information, Sir.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Find out and say.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* If a question is put we will collect the information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Will the consideration regarding the dearness allowance be based on a comparison with the dearness allowance available there.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* The Diwan President has stated here that we cannot make comparisons with Administrations in British India. He said we should not compare ourselves with British India in the matter of dearness allowance. We should compare ourselves with Indian States.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Then why bring the comparison in the cost of living?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* That happens to be the nearest place where we could get the index figures.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Then should it not be equally applicable for a comparison with regard to the rates of dearness allowance.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* We do not think so.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* The cat is out of the bag.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഈ ആറാമ്പ്രിക ഡിയർനസ് അലവൻസ് ആക്കിയതിനുശേഷം അരിയുടെ വില കൂടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I want notice.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Is the Government aware of the fact that private companies like Tata and Burmha Shell are paying Rs. 15 and more.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* We are aware of it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Are the Government aware of the rate of dearness allowance on the Willingdon Island.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* We are aware of that.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഈ ആറാമ്പ്രിക ഡിയർനസ് അലവൻസ് ആക്കിയത് എന്ന മുതല്ക്കാണ്?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* From July.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അരിക്ക വില കൂട്ടിയതു എന്ന മുതല്ക്കാണെന്ന ഫുഡ് സപ്ലൈസ് ഡയരക്ടർ പറയാമോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* 9th September 1943.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know what is the basis for fixing Rs. 6 as the necessary amount of dearness allowance to Government servants.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There was a request from this very house for giving a rate of Rs. 6 among other rates.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* The request was for Rs. 10.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ആറാമ്പ്രിക ഡിയർനസ് അലവൻസ് ആക്കിയതിനുശേഷം അരിക്ക വില കൂട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ടു് അലവൻസ് കുറച്ചു കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടെ ആലോചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* As I have already submitted we are seriously considering the question of the dearness allowance.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When we give this 6 rupees what is the total cost to Government?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* 9 lakhs and a few thousands of rupees.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Nominated):* May I know Sir, how long will it take to come to a conclusion of this consideration.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* As early as possible.

Mr. President: I should say that the consideration will never be concluded. *(Laughter).*

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christian Ernakulam):* Is it not possible to have our own index figures compiled for the State?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* We have now taken steps to collect our own index figures. We have now just got an officer trained in Madras and have given him necessary directions to compile our own index figures. I hope it will be available ere long.

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30. Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether dearness allowance for Government servants was enhanced as promised at the last Budget Session;

(*b*) if not, why not?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts:)* (*a*) No definite promise was made by the Government. The Diwan President undertook that the matter would receive the earnest attention of the Government and that the rates of dearness allowance would be reviewed from time to time.

(*b*) Government are constantly examining the question whether the rate of dearness allowance should be enhanced further.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians Ernakulam):* Sir, in view of the information supplied in reply to the previous questions I do not want to put this question.

MEDICAL OFFICER—TRAINING IN THE MADRAS MENTAL HOSPITAL

31. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government intend to depute any Medical Officer for training in the Madras Mental Hospital;

(*b*) whether applications have been called for;

(*c*) the terms upon which the training is to be given;

(*d*) whether seniority of service will not be reckoned in the selection of the candidate?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) Casualty Officer Mr. T. K. Krishnaswamy has been deputed for training in Madras Mental Hospital.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) He should undergo this training at his own expense, but the fees will be paid by the Government. The training is for a period of six months. On completion of this training he will be appointed as officiating Assistant Surgeon in the Mental Hospital on the grade of Rs. 125-5-200 with an allowance of Rs. 50 in lieu of private practice.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know whether the Government had any objection to call for application in regard to this training.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* The Government had no objection but they did not think it necessary to do so.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know Sir, what will be the starting pay which the officer will be getting when he is appointed.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Rs. 125 plus 50.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* For purpose of seniority will this allowance of Rs. 50 be taken into consideration?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* No.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Is he not at present drawing Rs. 150 as A. R. P. casualty Officer?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* He was drawing this amount.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will he not be entitled to draw Rs. 200 as soon as he returns after training.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* No.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* Who is the Casualty Officer in his place?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Dr. J. Ramakrishna Ayyar.

GENERAL HOSPITAL—ADMISSION OF VISITORS

32. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the reason why visitors are not allowed to the Ernakulam General Hospital, at least for one hour daily;

(*b*) is it not the practice at the Trichur Civil Hospital to allow visitors in the evening from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) Visitors are allowed daily to the General Hospital between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Is it compulsory that a visitor should produce a pass for gaining entry?

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